



Early Journal Content on JSTOR, Free to Anyone in the World

This article is one of nearly 500,000 scholarly works digitized and made freely available to everyone in the world by JSTOR.

Known as the Early Journal Content, this set of works include research articles, news, letters, and other writings published in more than 200 of the oldest leading academic journals. The works date from the mid-seventeenth to the early twentieth centuries.

We encourage people to read and share the Early Journal Content openly and to tell others that this resource exists. People may post this content online or redistribute in any way for non-commercial purposes.

Read more about Early Journal Content at <http://about.jstor.org/participate-jstor/individuals/early-journal-content>.

JSTOR is a digital library of academic journals, books, and primary source objects. JSTOR helps people discover, use, and build upon a wide range of content through a powerful research and teaching platform, and preserves this content for future generations. JSTOR is part of ITHAKA, a not-for-profit organization that also includes Ithaka S+R and Portico. For more information about JSTOR, please contact support@jstor.org.

PUBLIC HEALTH REPORTS

VOL. 36

NOVEMBER 4, 1921

No. 44

PRINCIPAL CAUSES OF DEATH IN THE UNITED STATES REGISTRATION AREA, 1920.¹

Census Bureau's Summary of Mortality Statistics.

The Department of Commerce announces that the Census Bureau's annual report on mortality statistics, which will be issued shortly, shows 1,142,558 deaths as having occurred in 1920 within the death registration area of continental United States, representing a death rate of 13.1 per 1,000 population as compared with 12.9 in 1919, which was the lowest rate recorded in any year since the registration area was established in 1900.

The death registration area (exclusive of the Territory of Hawaii) in 1920 comprised 34 States, the District of Columbia, and 16 registration cities in nonregistration States, with a total estimated population on July 1 of 87,486,713, or 82.2 per cent of the estimated population of the United States. The State of Nebraska was added to the registration area in 1920, so that at present the only States not in the area are Alabama, Arizona, Arkansas, Georgia, Idaho, Iowa, Nevada, New Mexico, North Dakota, Oklahoma, South Dakota, Texas, West Virginia, and Wyoming. The figures for the Territory of Hawaii will appear in the report, but they are not included in this summary.

The death rate from pneumonia increased from 123.5 per 100,000 in 1919 to 137.3 in 1920. For chronic diseases of the heart, the rate increased from 131 to 141.9; for cancer, from 80.5 to 83. Some of the other diseases for which the rate increased are whooping cough, measles, cerebral hemorrhage, congenital debility and malformations, puerperal fever, scarlet fever, and appendicitis. The fatalities caused by automobile accidents and injuries show an increase from 9.4 per 100,000 in 1919 to 10.4 in 1920.

¹ Similar summaries for the years 1917, 1918, and 1919 were published in Public Health Reports for July 4, 1919, pp. 1474-1478; Feb. 13, 1920, pp. 345-349; and Nov. 19, 1920, pp. 2783-2787, respectively.

A marked decrease is shown in the death rate from tuberculosis, which was 114.2 in 1920 as compared with 125.6 in 1919; also in the death rate from influenza, 71 in 1920 as against 98.8 the year before. The death rate from suicide declined from 11.4 in 1919 to 10.2 in 1920. There was a decline also in the rate for typhoid fever and in that for accidental drowning.

The total number of deaths and the death rate, by leading causes, together with the percentage which each cause contributed to the total, in the death registration area in continental United States: 1919 and 1920.

Cause of death.	Number of deaths.		Rate per 100,000 population.		Per cent of total.	
	1919	1920 ¹	1919	1920	1919	1920
All causes ²	1,096,436	1,142,558	1,287.4	1,306.0	100.0	100.0
Organic diseases of the heart.....	111,579	124,143	131.0	141.9	10.2	10.9
Pneumonia (all forms).....	105,213	120,108	123.5	137.3	9.6	10.5
Tuberculosis (all forms).....	106,985	99,916	125.6	114.2	9.8	8.7
Tuberculosis of the lungs ³	94,772	88,195	111.3	100.8	8.6	7.7
Tuberculous meningitis.....	5,175	4,895	6.1	5.6	.5	.4
Other forms of tuberculosis.....	7,038	6,826	8.3	7.8	.6	.6
Acute nephritis and Bright's disease.....	75,005	78,192	88.1	89.4	6.8	6.8
Cancer and other malignant tumors.....	68,551	72,931	80.5	83.4	6.3	6.4
Cerebral hemorrhage (apoplexy).....	65,951	70,780	77.4	80.9	6.0	6.2
External causes (suicide and homicide excepted).....	61,268	62,492	71.9	71.4	5.6	5.5
Accidental falls.....	9,629	10,323	11.3	11.8	.9	.9
Automobile accidents and injuries.....	7,968	9,103	9.4	10.4	.7	.8
Burns (conflagration excepted).....	6,409	6,645	7.5	7.6	.6	.6
Railroad accidents and injuries.....	6,304	6,426	7.4	7.3	.6	.6
Accidental drowning.....	5,854	4,977	6.9	5.7	.5	.4
Accidental absorption of deleterious gases (conflagration excepted).....	2,884	3,012	3.4	3.4	.3	.3
Accidental shooting.....	2,350	2,262	2.8	2.6	.2	.2
Mine accidents and injuries.....	2,179	2,171	2.6	2.5	.2	.2
Machinery accidents and injuries.....	2,082	2,153	2.4	2.5	.2	.2
Street car accidents and injuries.....	1,916	1,746	2.2	2.0	.2	.2
Injuries by vehicles, other than railroad cars, street cars, and automobiles.....	1,970	1,698	2.3	1.9	.2	.1
Effects of heat, other than burns.....	536	270	.6	.3	(⁴)	(⁴)
Other external causes.....	11,187	11,706	13.1	13.4	1.0	1.0
Influenza.....	84,113	62,097	98.8	71.0	7.7	5.4
Congenital debility and malformations.....	56,714	61,080	66.6	69.8	5.2	5.3
Diarrhea and enteritis (total).....	47,044	47,605	55.2	54.4	4.3	4.2
Diarrhea and enteritis (under 2 years).....	37,635	38,514	44.2	44.0	3.4	3.4
Diarrhea and enteritis (over 2 years).....	9,409	9,091	11.0	10.4	.9	.8
Arterial diseases, atheroma, aneurism, etc.....	18,976	19,977	22.3	22.8	1.7	1.7
Diabetes.....	12,683	14,062	14.9	16.1	1.2	1.2
Diphtheria and croup.....	12,551	13,395	14.7	15.3	1.1	1.2
Appendicitis and typhlitis.....	10,029	11,702	11.8	13.4	.9	1.0
Bronchitis.....	10,913	11,609	12.8	13.3	1.0	1.0
Puerperal affections, other than puerperal septicemia.....	9,538	10,976	11.2	12.5	.9	1.0
Whooping cough.....	4,714	10,968	5.5	12.5	.4	1.0
Respiratory diseases, other than pneumonia and bronchitis.....	8,865	10,120	10.4	11.6	.8	.9
Hernia and intestinal obstruction.....	8,853	9,314	10.4	10.6	.8	.8
Suicide (total).....	9,732	8,959	11.4	10.2	.9	.8
By firearms.....	3,302	3,169	3.9	3.6	.3	.3
By hanging or strangulation.....	1,726	1,616	2.0	1.8	.2	.1
By poison.....	1,546	1,417	1.8	1.6	.1	.1
By asphyxia.....	1,275	1,124	1.5	1.3	.1	.1
By cutting or piercing instruments.....	695	640	.8	.7	.1	.1

¹ The State of Nebraska, with an estimated midyear population of 1,301,737, was admitted to the registration area in 1920.

² Exclusive of stillbirths.

³ Includes acute miliary tuberculosis.

⁴ Less than one-tenth of 1 per cent.

The total number of deaths and the death rate, by leading causes, together with the percentage which each cause contributed to the total, in the death registration area in continental United States: 1919 and 1920—Continued.

Cause of death.	Number of deaths.		Rate per 100,000 population.		Per cent of total.	
	1919	1920	1919	1920	1919	1920
Suicide—Continued.						
By drowning.....	684	555	0.8	0.1	0.6	(4)
By jumping from high places.....	289	247	.3	.3	(4)	(4)
By crushing.....	100	97	.1	.1	(4)	(4)
Other suicides.....	115	94	.1	.1	(4)	(4)
Syphilis.....	7,347	7,969	8.6	9.1	.7	0.7
Measles.....	3,296	7,712	3.9	8.8	.3	.7
Angina pectoris.....	6,538	7,571	7.7	8.6	.6	.7
Acute endocarditis.....	5,955	6,861	7.0	7.8	.5	.6
Typhoid fever.....	7,860	6,805	9.2	7.8	.7	.6
Cirrhosis of the liver.....	6,704	6,241	7.9	7.1	.6	.5
Homicide (total).....	6,386	6,205	7.5	7.1	.6	.5
By firearms.....	4,567	4,477	5.4	5.1	.4	.4
By cutting or piercing instruments.....	687	645	.8	.7	.1	.1
By other means.....	1,132	1,083	1.3	1.2	.1	.1
Paralysis without specified cause.....	6,146	5,828	7.2	6.7	.6	.5
Puerperal septicemia.....	4,950	5,800	5.8	6.6	.5	.5
Meningitis.....	5,508	5,281	6.5	6.0	.5	.5
General paralysis of the insane.....	4,823	5,030	5.7	5.7	.4	.4
Anemia, chlorosis.....	4,149	4,787	4.9	5.5	.4	.4
Rheumatism.....	3,907	4,287	4.6	4.9	.4	.4
Scarlet fever.....	2,383	4,004	2.8	4.6	.2	.4
Dysentery.....	3,732	3,574	4.4	4.1	.3	.3
Malaria.....	3,275	3,136	3.8	3.6	.3	.3
Erysipelas.....	2,186	2,721	2.6	3.1	.2	.2
Fellagra.....	2,806	2,322	3.3	2.7	.3	.2
Smallpox.....	358	503	.4	.6	(4)	(4)
All other defined causes.....	103,247	109,985	121.2	125.7	9.4	9.6
Unknown and ill-defined causes.....	15,603	15,505	18.3	17.7	1.4	1.4

* Less than one-tenth of 1 per cent.

FOOT DEFECTIVENESS IN SCHOOL CHILDREN.

A PRELIMINARY REPORT ON THE RESULTS OF THE EXAMINATION OF 356 SCHOOL CHILDREN IN NEW YORK CITY.

By MAURICE J. LEWIS, M. D., President, The First Institute of Podiatry, of New York City.²

Through the cooperation of Dr. A. K. Aldinger, head of the division of physical training, New York City Department of Education, and Dr. Josephine A. Baker, chief of the division of hygiene, New York City Board of Health, arrangements were made for the examination of the feet of the pupils of one of the public schools in New York City.

The pupils examined ranged from the grammar school grade to the grade of teacher's training classes.

² The examinations were conducted by the clinic staff of The First Institute of Podiatry of New York City, under the direction of Otto F. Schuster, chief of the orthopedic department of the Foot Clinics of New York City. The following orthopedic surgeons served as consultants: Arthur H. Cilley; Herbert A. Dunham; Sigmund Epstein.